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Edifying the Church

Wyatt Sawyer

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10-7-45
4-22-72

EDIFYING THE CHURCH

124.

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* Eph. 4:1-16.

INT: Church started as a mustard-seed movement Acts 2
and ended a world power in 1st Cent. C.1:2
Started with gifts of H. S. and ended with only
the Bible in their hand and Jesus in heart
Work is done in two senses: Locally & cooperative
Paul told how then and now. Apos. & Prop. then &
now: Evang., Elders, Teachers & members.
LESSON: Some ways WE can build up the kingdom of
God---like others have & are doing!!!

I. PREACH IT UP!

A. Gospel preaching here to stay. II Tim. 4:1-5.
Continue till the Lord appears! I Cor. 15:58.

B. Gospel meetings here to stay. I Cor. 1:18-21*

Ill. Set att. records at West Palm Beach, Fla.

Plan: Zones met for supper each night in
fellowship hall. Great fellowship,
(Recommend it!) great interest, great enthusiasm!!!

Ill. Waco meeting. Zones provided noon meal
for 100+, fine attendance, interest
and fellowship. Enthusiasm. (Recomm)

NOTE: Both are DOWNTOWN situations. Fla. brethren
drove many miles nightly! Preacher: 25 min.

KEY: Spirit of Leaders and Members in willingness
to work at it! Rewarding: Rom. 1:16-17.

POWER: was in the Word of God---truthfully preach

RESULTS: Fla. cong. still setting records and Waco
brethren have had a revival of hope-future.

II. PRAY THE CHURCH UP!

A. No church big-strong enough to succeed without
God's wisdom, strength & protection. ITh.5:17.

B. If Jas. 5:16 powerful with one man; what be
with many-men praying????

C. Church grows and succeeds through prayer!

Ill. Waco had zone-prayers 4-16-72. Had 300
in Eve. Ser. and 186 in zone-prayers...

Comment: Spr. of people ready Mon. morn!

1. Recommend such for our June 4-9 meeting!

Ill. Bayshore, Texas cong. having Apr. 25
spec.-prayer-sessions in behalf of: Weak
members, non-Chr. friends & relatives.

Praying from a prayer-list to be made up.

Praying on an extra-night (all for prayer)

2. Believe: Ch. that pray more grow more!

III. PAY IT UP! (Venacular for Support its program)

A. Some don't want program UP if it costs too much.

Ill. Prospective new colored preacher.

1. Bruders: give \$15 a week and make this ch. WAI K! amen!!!!
 2. Bruders: give \$50 a week and make it RUN. Amen!!!
 3. Bruders: give \$100 a week, make it FLY! Let er run!
- B. I Cor. 16:2 teaches Spiritual giving:
Periodically. (each 1st Day). Personally (U)
Purposefully. (plan ahead.) Proportionally
(as prospered) Preventatively (no gatherings)
- C. II Cor. 9:5-8.* Ill. (Waco) A. O. Duckworth
"I gave more time to church work than could
affort in Ins. business and business CAME TO
ME!!!! Cannot out-give God. Bap. man 4-20)

IV. WORK IT UP!

- A. Southside has excellent distribution of responsibilities in Mens and Womens workbooks
- B. Key: Do the people have the MIND to work?
Suggestion: If don't know exactly how to discharge a respon.--ask, ask, ask!!!
- Ill. Right attitude: Bro. AC Pullias and Bro. D. Lipscomb invited to same lecture hour. Embarrassing. Younger: "I am God's man to serve. I'll speak, not-speak, usher, greet or sweep the floor. Use me.)

V. LIVE IT UP!

- A. People read the NOW TESTAMENT much more than the NEW TESTAMENT! II Cor. 3:1-6.*
Ill. Poem: I'd Rather See a Sermon!!!
- B. True Christians live: Rom. 12:1-2.
Considered squares, odd, ancient, fanatical, strange, different & unusual.
Exactly what Jesus wants!!

INV: Paul said: I Cor. 9:27. Daily battle. IP 5:8 .

Paul won his battle! How about you??? Can YOU say: II Tim. 4:7-8. Fighting-keeping-finish.
If not - Acts 8:22.
If not disciple of Jesus. Acts 2:38 !!!

EDIFYING THE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11-15

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Edify: means to build up, strengthen, to improve.
Two-fifths provisions temporary. Need permanent..

INT: Leaders given for three purposes; verse 12.....
Ways the church can be edified or strengthened...

I. PREACH IT UP OR TALK IT UP. Women talk it up.

1. Genuine interest essential to selling anything.
2. Early church advertized, effective method. Acts 8:4.
3. Keep church's reputation up, not down. Matt. 18:15-17
4. Build it by teaching freedom-giving truth. John 8:30-32
5. Who will teach N. T. way if N. T. Christians don't???

II. PRAY IT UP.

1. Suggests we believe God-Word-Prayer. James 5:16.
2. No petition valid unless cooperation intended.
3. We need prayer continually for our leaders. Jas. 1:5.
4. Pray for all members to grow spiritually. Matt. 18:19
5. Pray for ourselves. Luke 18:13 and Romans 3:23.

III. PAY IT UP.

1. Why talk so much about money? asked by slackers; the stingy, covetous and half-converted. Matt. 6:21.
2. Zealous Christian, doing all can, unburdened mind.
3. Parable of Talents. Just loaned things. Matt. 25:15-30
4. How to give? Periodically, Personally, Purposefully, proportionately and preventatively.
5. Ill. New Colored Preacher: \$15 make church walk, Amen, \$25 make it run, \$50 fly, Let her run brethren.

IV. WORK IT UP.

1. Ill. Bro. Pullias and Lipscomb mix-up. Sweep floor.
2. Church with truth, no work, dead. Denom. is opposite.
3. Work in coming V. B. S. Need teachers and helpers.
4. Work for coming meeting. Post cards, personal letters
5. Gal. 6:9-10 covers all other "what ifs". Do good.

V. LIVE IT UP.

1. Christian with all this, yet a reproach in the public eye will go unrewarded. I Cor. 9:27.
2. Poem: I'd Rather See A Sermon Any Day.
3. Good living suggests a good plan, glorifies the designer of the pattern, Lord Jesus Christ.
4. All agree in need for the church - contribute life??

P.A. 3-8-59
Vidor 5/11/62

Want to help build the church, must first become
INV: a member of it. B-R-C-B Gal. 3:26

An unfaithful member: Question in mind about
status with Lord. Remove the doubt with Rep.-Prayer.